Review of Total Literacy Campaign Programme

2275. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any review of the Statewise' progress of implementation of Total Literacy Compaign Programme;

(b) if so, the details, thereof; and

(c) by which year total literacy would be possible in the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an Expert Group constituted by this Department undertook a nation-wide evaluation of the Total Literacy Campaigns in 1993-94. The Report identified several strengths and weaknesses of the campaigns. The Strengths include:

—It is more of a movement than a programme.

—There has been an overwhelming impact on women.

—The literacy movement has generated demand for primary eduction.

—The campaigns have led to sensitization of the bureaucracy.

The weaknesses include:

—Some campaigns have been launched without adequate preparations.

—The quality of teaching has suffered in some places where there has been excessive preoccupation with literacy skills alone.

—Progress of literacy has been rather slow in urban areas.

The reasons for weaknesses are that the educational infrastructure and voluntary support are sometimes found to be inadequate.

The steps taken to strengthen the programme include time-bound action plan for uncovered districts of some States; greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, community and voluntary organisations; reinforcement of linkages between literacy programmes and other development programme.

(c) National Literacy Mission has the objective of making 100 million persons functionally literate in a specific age group of 15—35 in a time-bound manner.

Curbing the Fake Universities

2276. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 24th November, 1998 captioned, "Bad days ahead for fake Universities";

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the recommendations made by the Task Force set up by government to go into the loopholes of the U.G.C. Act headed by Prof. Amrik Singh, former Vice-Chancellor of Punjab University, Patiala; and

(c) the names of fake Univesities functioning in the country as on 1st December, 1998 and the estimated number of persons cheated by them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to meet the commitment to curb the growth of fake universities, the Government -constituted a "Task Force" to examine the relevant provisions of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 which need to be amended and to provide sufficient safe-guard against the existence of fake universities. Major recommendations of the "Task Force" include a penalty upto Rs. ten lakhs and imprisonment for a period from one year to three years for the violation of the relevant Section of the UGC Act, making the offences cognizable and non-bailable.